LETTERS@METRO.US

A METHOD TO THE SHERLOCK MADNESS {page 16}

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BOSTON
Thursday, September 20, 2012

Federal grand jury indicts former Southie Teamsters

Four members known as 'Perry's Crew' charged with racketeering, extortion ◗ US Attorney says men earned jobs for themselves, their family by shaking down businesses ◗ Accused of assaulting their own members {page 02}

ERIN BALDASSARE/METRO

Rugby. Craze

▶ Members of the Boston Irish Wolfhounds rugby team hit the sled in the rain at BC High this week. See why the popularity of rugby is exploding in Boston. (page 24)

news

Potential dog poisoning in Charlestown

◗ Police are investigating antifreeze-laced hot dogs on Medford Street {page 04}

the word

Lindsay Lohan: An arrested development

◗ Yup, it happened again and we're almost as tired of it as you are {page 13}

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In the news

1M

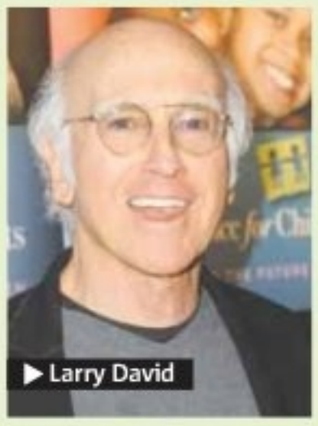
New England Patriots wide receiver Matthew Slater this week helped kick off a national campaign to recruit one million education volunteers to try and reduce the number of high school dropouts in the United States. The collaboration between United Way and the NFL connects football players with local United Way organizations to help get the volunteer readers, tutors and mentors on board. METRO

Today's local tweet

"The people who like to chew food with their mouths wide open while sitting across from me on the T seem to favor yogurt and granola. #mbta"

@BETHG24 ON THE VIEW FROM HER T SEAT

News in brief


Larry David

Larry David to film movie in Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS. A new HBO movie written by and starring Seinfeld co-creator Larry David will begin filming in Massachusetts starting this month, according to the Massachusetts Film Office. A spokesperson said she did not know the exact location of the shoot. The film, titled "Clear History," stars David as a former marketing executive at a start-up electric car company who is publicly humiliated for walking away from a 10 percent stake in the company now worth billions of dollars. SHNS

Mayors seek tax on Amazon buys

MASSACHUSETTS. A group of eight mayors, including Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, signed a letter this week urging the state to "more aggressively" force Amazon.com to collect sales tax in Massachusetts.

The letter was spearheaded by Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll.

Because the company has a physical presence in Massachusetts, it should collect sales tax on purchases, the mayors argue, adding that if it did the state could see between $25 to $45 million. METRO

UMass enrollment hits record high

MASSACHUSETTS. Enrollment at the University of Massachusetts, which has five campuses around the state, rose 2 percent this fall to hit a record-high of 70,874 students.

According to the State House News, enrollment is up 16 percent over the past five years and the four campuses that admit undergraduate students saw a 5.7 percent increase in applications this year. SHNS

News in pictures

Pioneer, hero are laid to rest

The Boston area yesterday honored a pair of men who served as leaders and who both died last week. Bruce Bolling, 67, was Boston's first black City Council president. Glen Doherty, 42, a Winchester native, was a former Navy SEAL working as a security contractor when he was killed during last week's attack on the U.S. consulate in Libya.

1: Scores of people, including Mayor Thomas Menino and Gov. Deval Patrick, paid their respects during Bolling's funeral at the Morning Star Baptist Church in Mattapan.
2: A mourner weeps as Bolling's casket is carried out of the church.
3: People lined sidewalks as a procession carrying Doherty's remains traveled from the funeral home to the church.
4: Doherty's ashes are removed before his funeral at St. Eulalia Church in Winchester.

PHOTOS 1 AND 2: NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO. PHOTOS 3 AND 4: BILL GREENE/THE BOSTON GLOBE

Trouble for Teamsters former union members

US Attorney charges four former Southie union members with extortion, racketeering Feds say group shook down hotels, businesses

A crew of Teamster union members earned jobs for themselves and their family by threatening to picket events and disrupt business at local hotels, catering companies and other establishments, according to a criminal indictment announced yesterday.

Four former members of the Teamsters Local 82 union were indicted by a federal grand jury for racketeering and extortion of local businesses.

John Perry, 60, of Woburn; James Deamicis, also known as Jimmy the Bull, 49, of Quincy; and Joseph Burhoe, also known as Jo Jo, 44, and Thomas Flaherty, 49, both of Braintree, were charged in a 30-count federal indictment.

The men were members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 82 based in South Boston. Perry served as the union's secretary treasurer and director of trade shows and convention centers.

The indictment alleges that the men, known as the "Perry Crew," engaged in illegal activities since 2007 to generate money for themselves, their friends and their family.

"Acts of extortion were allegedly perpetrated by the Perry Crew on various entities throughout Boston including hotels, event planners, catering companies, pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, music entertainment companies and non-profit organizations, none of which had collective bargaining agreements with Local 82," the U.S. Attorney's office said in a statement.

The indictment accuses the men of threatening to picket and disrupt business at the entities, sometimes just hours before an event, if they did not accept the Perry Crew's demands for "unwanted, unnecessary and superfluous jobs for themselves, their friends and family."

The men also allegedly assaulted and threatened other members of their own union.

The Globe reported earlier this year that the Teamsters union had shut down the 500-member Local 82 for being too "dysfunctional" and ordered it to merge with the larger Local 25 in Charlestown.

Quoted

"Acts of extortion were allegedly perpetrated by the Perry Crew on various entities throughout Boston including hotels, event planners, catering companies ... none of which had collective bargaining agreements with Local 82."
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

$100K Perry, the alleged ring leader of the crew, was released on $100,000 bond, secured by real estate, after his court appearance yesterday.

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Food truck face-off in October

Boston food trucks will face off against New York City in Dewey Square next month in the first ever Food Truck Throwdown.

The free, day-long competition will end with one mobile eatery being named "best food truck" by a panel of celebrity judges, including Jenny Johnson from NECN's "TV Diner."

Seven trucks from each city will compete, with contenders determined by online polling.

Boston's trucks will include Roxy's Grilled Cheese, Bon Me, The Cookie Monstah, Staff Meal, Mei Mei Street Kitchen, Lobsta Love and Kickass Cupcakes.

The Hub will be up against: Nuchas, a truck that specializes in fresh baked artisanal empanadas; Bian Dang, noted for "the best damn Taiwanese food in the USA;" and Big D's Grub with tacos and grinders showcasing the best of Asian and Latin flavors. Other New York trucks will include Fishing Shrimp, Mike 'n' Willie's,The Munchie Mobile and Wafels & Dinges. The event, spearheaded by Kickass Cupcakes, will run from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13. METRO/MR

Landscaper eyed after attempt to poison pooches

Alleged antifreeze-laced hot dogs have Charlestown canine owners on alert ◐ No dog deaths confirmed

Charlestown dog owners beware: A landscaper may be trying to poison your furry best friend.

A person reported to police that a landscaper was cutting a lawn on Medford Street on Sunday evening and started spreading pieces of hot dogs from a bucket with a blue-green solution in it around the lawn, according to a police report.

The neighbor told police he or she thought the solution was antifreeze and confronted the landscaper.

The neighbor asked the landscaper if he was trying to poison the dogs and, according to the neighbor, the landscaper said yes.

An argument ensued and the neighbor left the area, but returned to collect the hot dog pieces.

The neighbor alerted other residents to the incident and they went to the police station to report it.

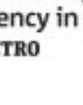
The collected hot dogs were turned over to police as evidence and two detectives were assigned to investigate, according to the report.

Area dog owners are in disbelief over the incident.

"Everybody is just kind of on high alert and sort of freaked out," said Michelle Fournier, the owner of Durty Harry's dog wash and shop in Charlestown. "You can't even wrap your head around it."

Fournier said worried dog owners are calling her shop to ask that their dogs not be walked in the area where the allegedly poisonous hot dogs were found. She said she's heard about dogs that have recently become sick.

"The Charlestown community is such a dog-friendly community," she said. "We take this really, really seriously."



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Hotel. Fire

▶ Boston Firefighters respond to a fire at the Double Tree Hotel on Soldiers Field Road early yesterday morning.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Allston hotel fire forces evacuation

A generator in a garage adjacent to the DoubleTree hotel in Allston caught fire, cutting power to the building and forcing the evacuation of 400 guests yesterday morning. Fire crews arrived on scene just before 7:30 a.m. and quickly doused the flames. They then assisted in evacuating guests, who boarded MBTA buses to the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge. There were no reports of injuries. METRO

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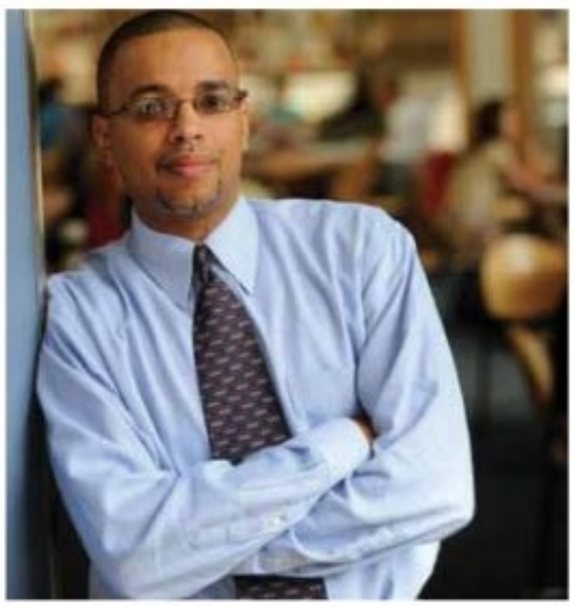

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Celebration adding to DTX resurgence

Ambassadors to be featured during downtown celebration event next week • They've cleaned up 70 tons of trash • Concerts, car show, food festival on tap

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ The 'ambassdors' pick up trash, direct tourists and help make 34 blocks of Boston's central shopping district feel safer.

Downtown Crossing is slowly starting to resurge as a destination in the city rather than a walking path, and helping it to climb out from its seedy reputation are dozens of orange-shirt-wearing "ambassadors."

The ambassadors are the product of the Business Improvement District, the organization formed in 2010 to oversee an extra, optional tax on buildings in the Downtown Crossing area to help revitalize the neighborhood through extra services.

A weeklong celebration of downtown Boston hosted by the BID starts Sunday, and a key component of that will be the ambassadors.

"They'll be communicating all of [the] events, going to businesses," said Rosemarie Sansone, president of the BID.

The ambassadors will also be featured in a program Monday afternoon showcasing the equipment they use to help keep the area safe and clean.

Since the spring of 2011, the 30 ambassadors have given thousands of tourists directions, cleaned 70 tons of trash, graffiti and gum from the streets and have even returned $25,000 in lost checks. They are stationed in the Downtown Crossing area every day, even overnight.

"They've really become the eyes and ears in the neighborhood, and people recognize them as a resource for many different things," Sansone said.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

Celebrations

Some of the events next week are listed below. For more information, visit www.bostonbid.org.

- **Sunday, 9 a.m.,** an inaugural free classic car show on Boston Common
- **Monday, noon,** lunchtime concert at Post Office Park
- **Tuesday, noon,** lunchtime concert on Summer Street
- **Wednesday, 11 a.m.,** Summer Street Markets
- **Thursday, 5 p.m.,** Downtown Crossing Block Party season finale on Summer Street
- **Friday, 7 p.m.,** live jazz at the Hyatt Regency
- **Saturday, 9 a.m.,** charity running with the bridesmaids through Boston Common
- **Sunday, 11 a.m.,** food festival with cooking demonstrations and market on Summer Street

MBTA selects GM finalists

It appears as though the next MBTA boss will most likely hail from Atlanta.

The MBTA general manager screening committee met yesterday to announce the two finalists for the general manager position, a job currently being filled by Chief Financial Officer Jonathan Davis.

The finalists for the job are Beverly Scott, chief executive officer and general manager of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, and Dwight Ferrell, deputy general manager and chief operating officer of Atlanta's MARTA.

Scott would be the first female to lead the MBTA, while either candidate would become the second African-American — Robert Prince Jr. was the first — to hold the top job at the MBTA.

The screening committee will reportedly interview the pair during a meeting on Monday, and is expected to make an appointment at that meeting.

Davey said the committee considered more than 100 people for the job over the past year. **METRO/SHNS**

Commuter Rail to clear leaves

The Mass Bay Commuter Rail said this fall it will prevent service delays caused by fallen leaves on the tracks by using "slippery rail" power washers.

An MBCR specialist said when water and leaf oil are mixed by pressure from passing trains, a sticky black ooze forms atop the rails, which makes them too slick for train wheels to gain traction.

Severe buildup of the slippery residue impacts customers because engineers must brake earlier to make stops and accelerate more slowly to limit wheel slippage. **METRO**

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News in brief

GETTY IMAGES

Attack on Libya embassy was terror attack, US says

WASHINGTON. The assault on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi last week in which four Americans died was a "terrorist attack" that may have had an al Qaeda connection, a top U.S. counterterrorism official told Congress yesterday.

Rocket-propelled grenades and mortars struck the consulate on Sept. 11, the anniversary of the 2001 attacks on the United States. U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans died.

"They were killed in the course of a terrorist attack on our embassy," Matthew Olsen, director of the National Counterterrorism Center, said in response to a question at a Senate hearing. **REUTERS**

Iranian cleric beaten up by woman he ordered to cover up

DUBAI. An Iranian cleric said he was beaten by a woman in the northern province of Semnan after giving her a warning for being "badly covered," the state-run Mehr news agency reported.

Hojatoleslam Ali Beheshti said he encountered the woman in the street while on his way to the mosque in the town of Shahmirzad, and asked her to cover herself up, to which she replied, "you, cover your eyes," according to Mehr. The cleric repeated his warning, which he said prompted her to insult and push him. **BLOOMBERG**

Charlie Hebdo cartoons fuel more Muslim anger

A French magazine ridiculed the Prophet Mohammad on yesterday by portraying him naked in cartoons, threatening to fuel the anger of Muslims around the world who are already incensed by a video depicting him as a lecherous fool.

The drawings in the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo risked exacerbating a crisis that has seen the storming of U.S. and other Western embassies, the killing of the U.S. ambassador to Libya and a deadly suicide bombing in Afghanistan.

Riot police were deployed to protect the paper's Paris offices after it hit news stands.

It featured several caricatures of the Prophet showing him naked in what the publishers said was an attempt to poke fun at the furor over the film. One, titled, "Mohammad: a star is born," depicted a bearded figure crouching over to display his buttocks and genitals.

FRED DUFOUR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Inside pages contain several cartoons caricaturing the Prophet Mohammad. The magazine's decision to publish the cartoons came against a background of unrest across the Islamic world.

The French government, which had urged the weekly not to print the cartoons, said it was shutting embassies and schools in 20 countries as a precaution on Friday, when protests sometimes break out after Muslim prayers.

Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby called the drawings outrageous but said those who were offended by them should "use peaceful means to express their firm rejection."

Tunisia's ruling Islamist party, Ennahda, condemned what it called an act of "aggression" against Mohammad but urged Muslims not to fall into a trap intended to "derail the Arab Spring and turn it into a conflict with the West." **REUTERS**

Reaction in France

In the northern Paris suburb of Sarcelles, one person was slightly hurt when two masked men threw a small explosive device through the window of a kosher supermarket. Police said it was too early to link the incident to the cartoons. One small local Muslim group filed a legal complaint against the weekly but there were no reports of reaction on the streets of France.

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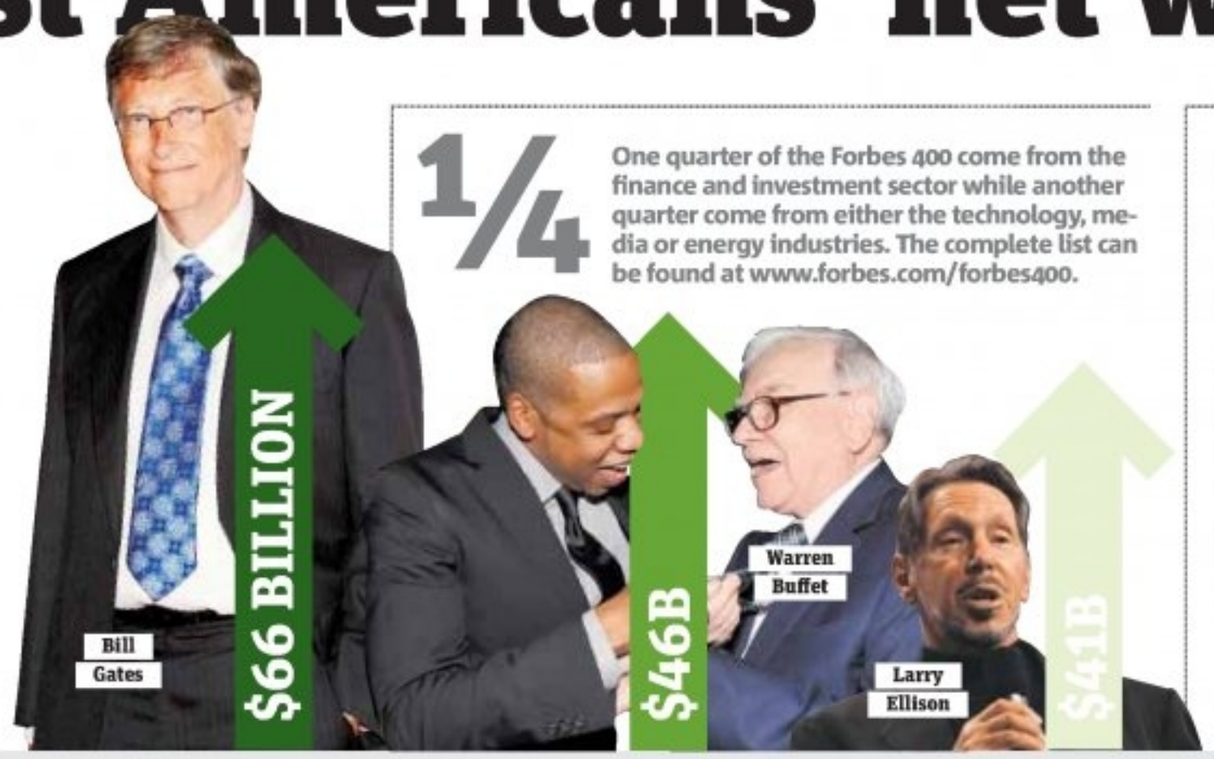
Richest Americans' net worth jumps

The net worth of the richest Americans grew by 13 percent in the past year to $1.7 trillion, Forbes magazine said yesterday, and a familiar cast populated the top of the annual list, including **Bill Gates**, **Warren Buffett**, **Larry Ellison** and **the Koch brothers**. The average net worth of the 400 wealthiest Americans rose to a record $4.2 billion, up more than 10 percent from a year ago, while the lowest net worth came in at $1.1 billion versus $1.05 billion last year. Seven in ten of the list's members made their fortunes from scratch. **REUTERS**

"The gap between the very rich and merely rich increased and helped drive up the average net worth of The Forbes 400 members to an all-time record $4.2 billion."

FORBES SENIOR WEALTH EDITOR LUISA KROLL



1/4

One quarter of the Forbes 400 come from the finance and investment sector while another quarter come from either the technology, media or energy industries. The complete list can be found at www.forbes.com/forbes400.

Familiar names at the top

Gates, the chairman of Microsoft Corp., topped the list for the 19th year in a row, with $66 billion, up $7 billion from a year earlier.

Buffett, chairman and chief executive of insurance conglomerate Berkshire Hathaway Inc., stood second with $46 billion, followed by Ellison, head of software maker Oracle Corp., with $41 billion. Brothers Charles and David Koch, who run the energy and chemicals conglomerate Koch Industries Inc. and who are active in conservative politics, were tied for fourth with $31 billion, Forbes said.

The ranks of the top five were unchanged from a year earlier.

$31B

Charles and David Koch, who run the energy and chemicals conglomerate Koch Industries Inc. and who are active in conservative politics, were tied for fourth with $31 billion.

Joining the club

Two notable names dropped from the top 10. Casino magnate **Sheldon Adelson**, also active in conservative political causes, fell to the 12th spot from No. 8 last year, and financier and liberal philanthropist **George Soros** dropped five spots to No. 12.

Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire founder of Bloomberg LP who is now in his third term as New York City mayor, rose to the No. 10 slot.

Newcomers to the elite club of 400 include **Laurene Powell Jobs**, the widow of Apple Inc. cofounder **Steve Jobs** who is now the wealthiest woman in Silicon Valley, and **Jack Dorsey**, the co-founder of Twitter.

Just 45 women made the cut, up from 42 last year.

California has the largest share of Forbes 400 members, with 87, followed by New York.

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to $1.7 trillion

Up: Laurene Powell Jobs

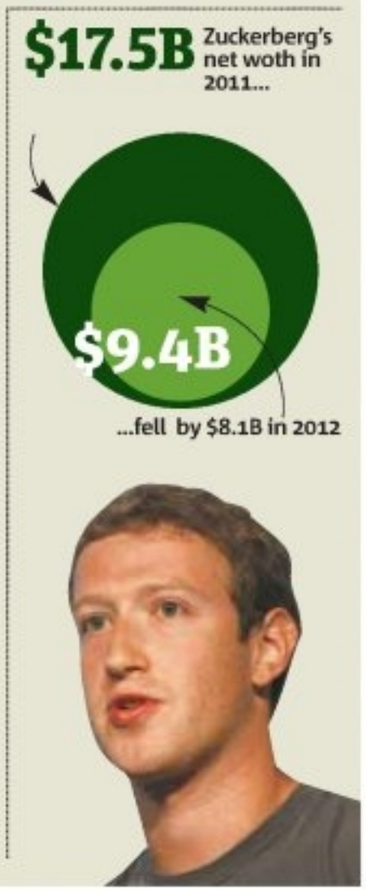
Down: Sheldon Adelson

Feeling anti-social

It was a bad year, however, for social media moguls, whose net worth fell by a combined $11 billion. On the heels of Facebook Inc.'s rocky IPO in May, the No. 1 social network's chief executive, **Mark Zuckerberg**, was the year's biggest dollar loser: his net worth fell by nearly half to $9.4 billion from $17.5 billion. He also slid to the No. 36 slot from No. 14 a year ago, Forbes said.

Facebook shares have fallen 40 percent from their IPO price of $38 a share in May.

Dismal performances by other social media stocks dropped some executives from the list altogether, including Groupon Inc. Chairman **Eric Lefkofsky**, No. 293 on last year's list, and Zynga Inc. Chairman and CEO **Mark Pincus**, No. 212 on the 2011 list.



Metro Photo Challenge

Today's winner: 'Honu Sanctuary in Bora Bora ...this was no shy turtle'

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News in brief

'Fast and Furious' report refers 14 for internal discipline

The U.S. Justice Department's internal watchdog yesterday referred 14 employees, including senior official Lanny Breuer, for possible internal discipline in connection with a botched gun probe in Arizona.

A 471-page report was released following a 19-month review by the department's inspector general into "Operation Fast and Furious," which allowed about 2,000 potentially illegal firearms to cross the border into Mexico.

The operation raised the fury of U.S. gun-rights advocates and is a focal point for Republican criticism of President Barack Obama leading up to the Nov. 6 elections.

Breuer, an Obama appointee and the head of the Justice Department's criminal division, is cited in the report for not alerting his superiors in 2010 to flaws in a program similar to Operation Fast and Furious that was started during George W. Bush's presidency. **REUTERS**

Romney says he's 'best bet' for poor

Mitt Romney said yesterday he would do a better job of helping the poor than President Barack Obama as the Republican tried to recover from a secret video that showed him dismissing nearly half the electorate as dependent on government help.

Romney has sought to make the Nov. 6 election a referendum on Obama's economic stewardship, but over the past week the spotlight has been fixed firmly on his own missteps — most recently a video that shows him writing off Obama supporters.

Romney hopes to recover by framing the presidential election as a choice between big government and economic growth. At an Atlanta fundraiser, Romney said he wants to spur job creation by encouraging private enterprise. **REUTERS**

"The question in this campaign is not who cares about the poor and middle class. I do, he does."
ROMNEY

Corporate corruption big voter worry: poll

With less than two months to go before the U.S. presidential election, a new survey found 61 percent of Americans say a candidate's commitment to rooting out corporate wrongdoing will be key in deciding who gets their vote.

Along with keen interest in knowing each candidate's plans to fix the struggling economy, voters want government to do more to fight corporate misconduct — which they say helped cause the financial crisis.

"In these difficult economic times, Americans are mad as hell about corporate wrongdoing and are going to do something about it in the November elections and beyond," said Jordan Thomas, a partner at law firm Labaton Sucharow, which commissioned the survey and which represents corporate whistleblowers.

A telephone poll of 1,015 people was conducted from Aug. 16-19.

Labaton Sucharow released the findings late yesterday.

MILES DIXON/METRO

▶ The poll surveying Americans' views on corporate corruption coincided with the anniversary of Occupy Wall Street.

"Americans have sounded the alarm. To meaningfully repair the economy, restore public faith in the markets and hold wrongdoers accountable, we need a strong partnership between individuals, corporate ethics and government."
LABATON SUCHAROW SENIOR PARTNER THOMAS DUBBS

Republican candidate Mitt Romney, who made a fortune running private equity firm Bain Capital and served as governor of Massachusetts, is campaigning to replace Democrat Barack Obama as president in what pollsters are calling a very tight presidential race.

Voters have been outraged by disclosures that banks forged documents to foreclose on homeowners, financial firms packaged risky mortgages into bonds that were improperly rated triple-A and international banks manipulated LIBOR, a key international lending rate.

Americans remain angry about the influence of Wall Street money on politics, with 77 percent of respondents saying they believe politicians favor corporate interests over constituent interests.

Some 63 percent of Americans believe government should make more money available to regulators and law enforcement to eliminate corporate wrongdoing. **REUTERS**

61%
Say a candidate's committment to rooting out corporate corruption will determine their vote

64%
Say corporate misconduct helped bring about economic crisis

81%
Say government has not done enough to stop corporate wrongdoing

83%
Say they would report wrongdoing, compared with 78 percent a year ago

Metropolitik

MICHAEL J. FROSCH
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR METRO

ROMNEY VS. THE REST OF THE NATION

The secret Mitt Romney fundraiser video released this week has exposed a man who speaks in private with a sneering disdain for half the country — for the poor, elderly, disabled and unemployed Americans who, Romney scoffs, "believe they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you name it. . . and that the government should give it to them!" These lazy, free-loading Americans "will vote for this president no matter what," Romney laments, because "I'll never convince them that they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives." "And so," Romney explains, "my job is not to worry about those people."

The hour-long video reveals that much of Romney's ideas are rooted in condescension, prejudice and a misunderstanding of the facts, and it has been a pleasant surprise to see many prominent Republicans join in condemning Romney's statements and correcting the record. But I think Romney's frankness reveals something more profound than mistakes of fact and character: Mitt Romney does not believe in democracy.

Quoted

I think Romney's frankness reveals something more profound than mistakes of fact and character: Mitt Romney does not believe in democracy.

A democracy depends on honesty. A candidate must tell us up front what he or she plans to do, and then set out to convince a majority of us that that plan is the best. If you can't do that, you lose. All candidates think their plan is best, and it must be frustrating when, no matter how hard they try to convince us, they can't get a majority to agree. It must be tempting to say whatever it takes to get elected — to bait-and-switch us for our own good. But that's no longer democracy — it's fraud.

Romney tells his donors that so many Americans are either freeloaders or vote based on "emotion, whether they like the guy or not, or what [he] looks like." He explains that if he were frank and honest, he would lose. He would appear too harsh and unlikeable, and that no amount of convincing could overcome that perception.

So instead, Mitt Romney has decided to trick us. He'll promise big results and stay fuzzy on the details. Before the election, only spoonfuls of sugar! He'll give us all that medicine after he's elected.

By hook or by crook, Mitt Romney will save America from itself — even if he has to betray the very ideals that make it a country worth saving.

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Shocker: Lohan arrested again

Lindsay Lohan was arrested again — I could type that phrase with my eyes closed at this point — in New York City on Monday night.

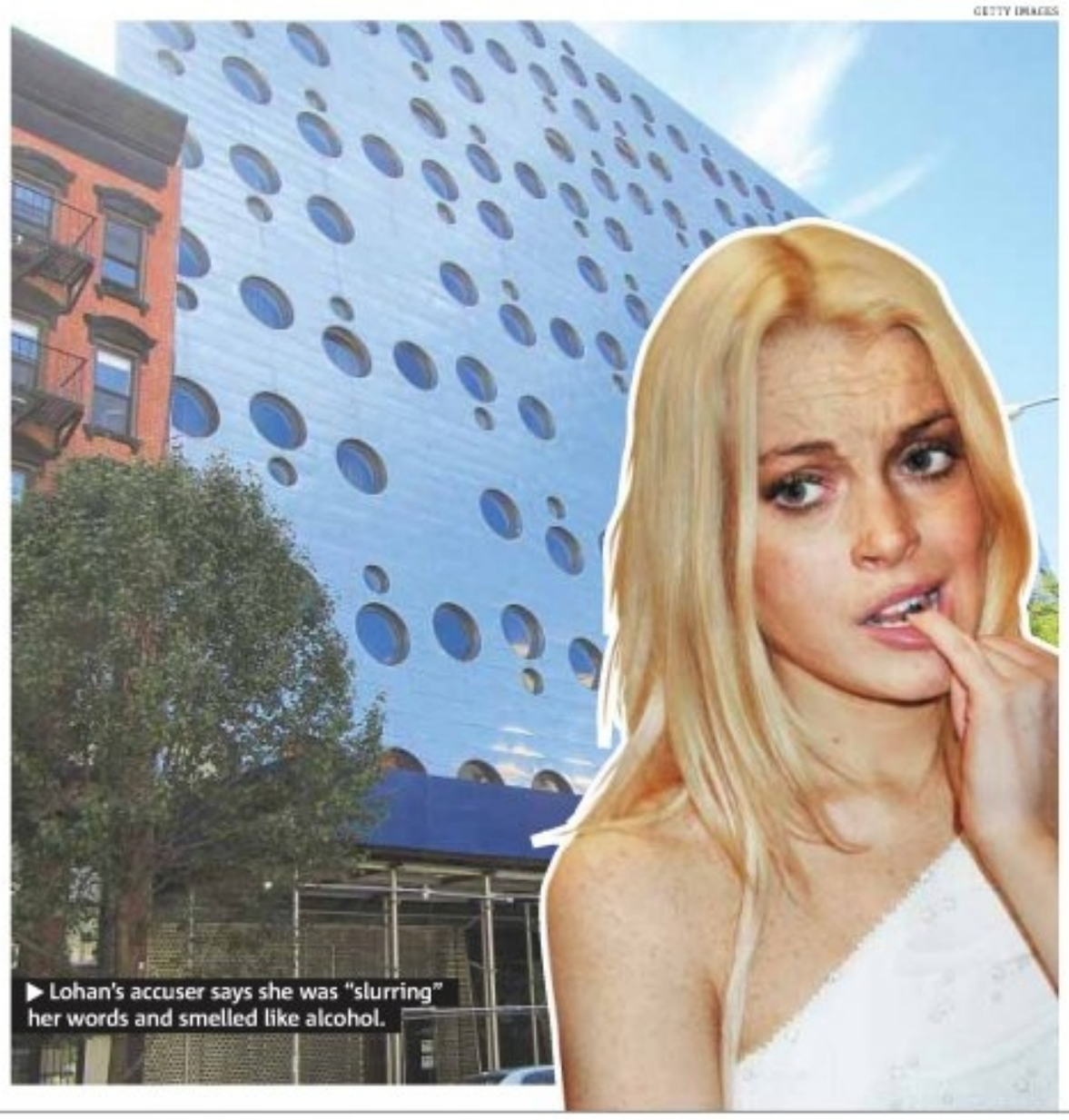
Lohan was behind the wheel when her Porsche pulled up to the Dream Hotel in the Meatpacking District around 12:30 a.m., hitting an unidentified man in the knee. Reportedly "unaware" of the accident, Lohan and her crew went into the hotel before authorities could arrive. Thirty minutes later, she was arrested leaving the hotel. The man checked into a nearby hospital, but there were no visible injuries, according to sources. Lohan was released without bail since the charge is only a misdemeanor.

Per TMZ, Lohan is saying the accident is "really fishy" because the man didn't appear to have any visible injuries and feels she's the victim of a setup. Surveillance video supports that — it apparently shows her accuser was exaggerating.

Conspiracy or no, this brings up a few questions:

1 Why is Lindsay Lohan driving in New York City? If I can afford to take a cab, she can afford to take a cab.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Lohan's accuser says she was "slurring" her words and smelled like alcohol.

2 How much is her car insurance? It must be more than my take-home salary at this point.

3 Who is her current lawyer? He's the hardest working man in show business (besides **Kirstie Alley**'s tailor) and yet no one knows his name.

How much ego can fit on one stage?

It looks like **Madonna** is looking to bury the hatchet with **Lady Gaga** like she did with **Elton John**, dedicating her song "Masterpiece" to the younger singer at a recent concert in Atlantic City, according to Us Weekly. "You want to know something? I love her," Madonna told the crowd. "I do love her. Imitation is the highest form of flattery." She even teased an impending team-up between the two, adding: "One day, very soon, we're going to be on stage together. Just you wait."

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

@ElizabethBanks: Catching up with news and my take-away is this: Kate Middleton is even more flawless than previously assumed. #RoyalAbs

@ZooeyDeschanel: I just want to wear sweaters and coats but the universe isn't playing along.

@EllenPage: Dear America, I've a very important question. Why are chickpeas called garbanzo beans here? Thanks

@SarahKSilverman: A bull in pretty much any shop is gonna be a mess

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One funny 'Motherf**ker'

▶ Evelyn Howe, right, gets close with Jaime Carrillo, who could be the title character in "The Motherf**ker With the Hat."

CRAIG BAILEY/PERSPECTIVE PHOTO

Behind the jokes, the SpeakEasy Stage Company actors tackle dark themes with brilliant ease and timing

The SpeakEasy Stage Company walks a fine line between humor and pain with extraordinary precision in a brilliant production of "The Motherf**ker With the Hat."

Just beneath the surface of the funny, biting words of playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis lies human desperation that turns this riotous story into a compelling treatise on love, addiction and human nature.

Each of the five characters seeks relief from his or her rough life in some form of addictive behavior. Drugs, alcohol, nutrition, sex and 12-step programs fuel the chaos that simultaneously unites and divides this desperately sad slice of humanity.

Evelyn Howe reels you in with great comic timing as Veronica, the active addict with no intention of stopping. Her sassy delivery wins you over initially, but it's a haunting look of desperation and emptiness that breaks your heart in the end.

Maurice Emmanuel Parent nails every slimy nuance in his flawless portrayal of an A.A. guru with the spirituality and probity of a snake oil salesman. Alejandro Simoes adds great levity and the only touch of true humanity with his portrayal of sexual ambiguity.

Though Jaime Carrillo's character declares "I'm in f—ing pain" early in Act 1, you can't imagine the depth and breadth of pain he reaches at the crescendo of his amazing performance. Melinda Lopez takes a subtle approach, but her pain is equally palpable and her performance also stunning.

NICK DUSSAULT
nick.dussault@metro.us

If you go

'The Motherfker With the Hat'**
Through Oct. 13
BCA Calderwood Pavilion
527 Tremont St., Boston
$25-$57, 617-933-8600
www.SpeakEasyStage.com

The plot

"The Motherf**ker With the Hat" is the story of an ex-con's effort to start a new life in sobriety. The problem is his long-time girlfriend is a coke addict with issues of her own. The production contains strong language and brief nudity.

Now playing

3 reasons to go to the movies

1 **'End of Watch':** Jake Gyllenhaal and Michael Pena star as beat cops who are in over their heads when they confiscate cash and guns from a drug ring.

2 **'Trouble with the Curve':** Clint Eastwood, Amy Adams and Justin Timberlake star in this light drama about an aging baseball scout (Eastwood) who embarks on one last talent-seeking mission in the company of his reluctant daughter (Adams).

3 **'House at the End of the Street':** Stripped of her normal survivalist persona, Jennifer Lawrence of "Winter's Bone" and "The Hunger Games" takes on a more formidable enemy than the wilds of nature: a spirit haunting her newly befriended neighbor down the street.

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Fall TV Guide: Thursdays

Reinventing a classic

Sherlock is covered in tattoos! Watson is a woman! 'Elementary' creator, stars explain their characters

In the new CBS drama "Elementary," eccentric detective Sherlock Holmes surfaces in New York City after a stint in rehab. He is forced to accept the aid of a sober companion, Dr. Joan Watson, to help in his recovery, though he believes his best shot at redemption is through helping his pal in the NYPD solve the city's toughest cases. Meet the modern incarnations of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's crime solvers.

Tune-in

"Elementary" premieres Sept. 27 at 10 p.m. on CBS.

AMBER RAY
amber.ray@metro.us

Sherlock Holmes

Played by Jonny Lee Miller

His past

"Oh, yeah — he's definitely got mental issues," Miller says. "I wouldn't say a mental illness or anything like that, but he's got issues, personal issues."

Series creator Rob Doherty teases that "something terrible happened to [Sherlock] in London. He spiraled out of control. Our Sherlock has emerged with what I think is at his core just a tiny kernel of self-doubt where one previously never existed."

Miller — whose own tattoos are visible in character — says that inner turmoil is what makes the brilliant, yet socially inept Sherlock relatable.

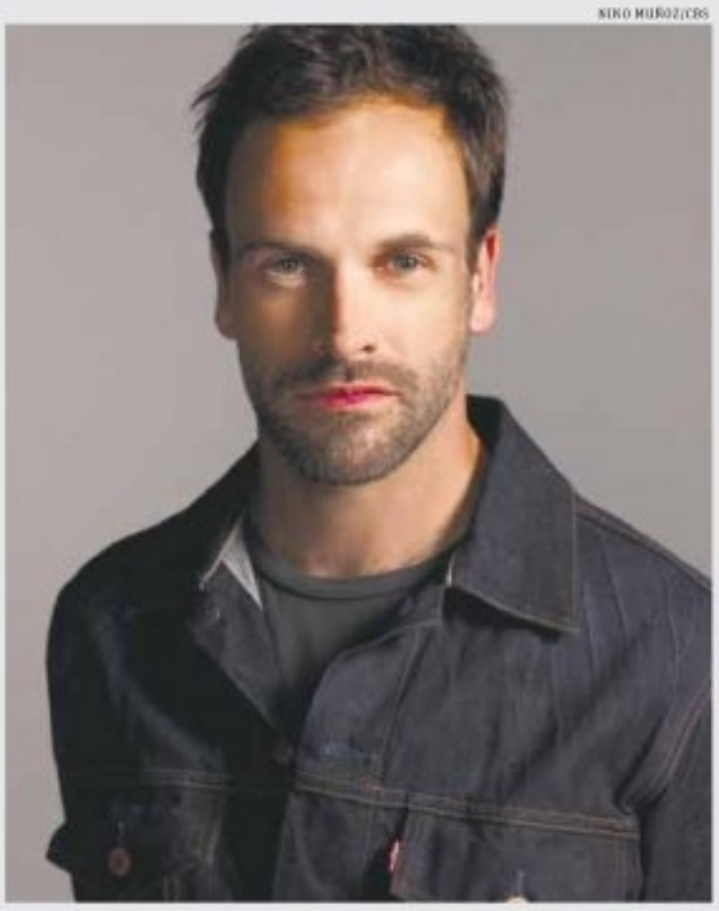
"He struggles with his own sense of self," Miller says. "People can identify with that."

The present

Whereas some incarnations of Sherlock may have been considered sociopathic, the detective in "Elementary" isn't simply seeking the thrill of the chase when he takes on a new case.

"Our Sherlock is a puzzle solver," says Doherty. "I see him as someone who is driven ... to do the right thing, to help people. At the end of the day, he believes in justice. It's not just about putting bad guys behind bars. Helping people and doing the right thing are factors that play into it as well."

KIKO MUÑOZ/CBS



His future

If there is one foe that defines Sherlock, it's Moriarty. Doherty promises the detective's nemesis will factor into the series, but is reluctant to give away too many details.

"He was such a shadowy figure," Doherty says. "I think he was described as the spider at the center of the web of crime in London. He's the man behind the man behind the man. In other words, there are a few dominos we knock over before we ultimately get to him."

"He struggles with his own sense of self. People can identify with that." MILLER ON SHERLOCK

Dr. Joan Watson

Played by Lucy Liu

Her past

Though Watson may not act out like the abrasive, dysfunctional Sherlock, the doctor may be just as damaged as her charge.

"She was a surgeon and lost her license, which gives her sort of a dark past that we ... may not discover for a little while," Liu says. "What we want to do is introduce the audience to the characters, and then sort of slowly unravel a little bit about her personal history."

The present

Watson's obligations to Sherlock are professional — keep him sober and safe — until she realizes she's not such a bad private investigator herself.

"[Watson] is on the sideline [in the pilot], observing him, because she's his sober companion," Liu says. "So she's not engaged in the mystery. She's engaged in him, and from that point on, then you get to see how that sort of blossoms out."

Her future

With a female Watson as Sherlock's sidekick, is a hookup imminent?

Going back to the source material, Liu notes Sherlock's "awkward relationship with the other gender." Making his trusted companion a woman, she says, "is a constant reminder of that awkwardness and that division between being a friend" or something more.

Miller insists the friendship is core to "Elementary," just as it has been in all other takes on the duo. But sexual tension, he admits, is inevitable.

"There is that element, and people are going to wonder," he says. "But then wondering and asking questions is something that you really want your audience to do, isn't it?"

KIKO MUÑOZ/CBS

"She's not engaged in the mystery. She's engaged in him, and from that point on, then you get to see how that sort of blossoms out." LIU ON WATSON

Also new on Thursdays

'Last Resort'

Is there heroism in disobedience? Shawn Ryan — who proved to be a master of the anti-hero with his game-changing cop drama "The Shield" — is behind this tale of a U.S. ballistic missile submarine crew who disobeys unexpected orders to blow up Pakistan and subsequently is forced to go on the lam. Andre Braugher's commanding presence and Scott Speedman's impossibly square jaw make this drama very watchable, even when all of the "what is happening?!" action slows down.

Premieres Sept. 27, 8 p.m., ABC

ABC/MARIO PEREZ

▶ Andre Braugher stars in "Last Resort."

'Beauty and the Beast'

This take on the classic tale is less Disney and more monster soap opera of the '80s — The CW version is considered a reboot of the "Beauty and the Beast" fairy tale starring Linda Hamilton and Ron Perlman, with Kristin Kreuk and Jay Ryan playing modern takes on the Catherine and Vincent characters. Kreuk is an NYPD detective who has crossed paths with Ryan's mysterious doctor in the past — in his "creature" state, he once saved her life. She reconnects with him, even though he was reportedly killed by enemy fire while serving in Afghanistan and has been living on the fringes of society because of his alter ego.

Premieres Oct. 11, 9 p.m., The CW ● AMBER RAY

FRANK OCKENFELS 3/THE CW

▶ "Beauty and the Beast"

mydating

When is it worth the wait?

Learn how to decide when it's time to cut bait and move along

Elisha Cuthbert, one of the stars of the ABC series "Happy Endings," is proving that sometimes people do live happily ever after. It was recently announced that she and longtime boyfriend Dion Phaneuf, the Toronto Maple Leafs NHL hockey player, are engaged to be married after dating for four years. For some, that could seem like an eternity to wait. It raises the question: How much time do you give a relationship before getting a proposal? And how long is too long?

There are many things that can keep one or both members of a couple from taking that big leap toward marriage. Sometimes these issues are never resolved, or worse, they are just excuses. Other times they really are honest concerns that just need time to work themselves out. So how can you know the difference?

The most important thing to keep in mind is that despite the fact that your partner's reluctance to commit can feel like a rejection of you, try not to take it personally. You can do this by recognizing that very often when one partner is holding back on taking that huge step, it often has more to do with his or her own individual issues and fears than with how that person feels about the other. Your partner might be worried about career success, or making enough money to support a family — or maybe he or she was betrayed before and has trust issues. If someone has already been married, there might be all sorts of concerns keeping that person from trying again.

Talk to your partner about what's stopping him or her from moving forward. See if you can jointly determine what it might take to get beyond your loved one's fears. Set goals to work toward making those changes, and then you can set a time limit for yourself — maybe six months or a year — and see if anything is being done. As long as your partner is trying, then your relationship is still viable and worth fighting for. But if he or she is all talk and has made no attempt to move toward the goals you set together, then, sadly, it might be an indication that nothing will ever change. At that point, you can do what that person hasn't been able to do: Take the next step yourself and move on.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Shrink wrap

DR. JANE GREER

HEALTH.METRO.US

— Relationship expert **Dr. Jane Greer** *is the creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *– national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* ***Healthylife.net.*** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Happy couple Elisha Cuthbert and Dion Phaneuf are finally ready to say "I do."

Reader love notes

Send us your love notes

E-mail **lovenotes@metro.us** with your special message and we'll print it in the next dating section. Please keep your note to 20 characters or fewer.

▶ *My Vidya, You complete me. I want to spend the rest of my life with you. Will you marry me? Rajen*

▶ ***Rason Hinton aka Hos, You're the official love of my life. I love you to pieces, Always yours, Cassondra***

▶ *Mr. McCurry, You are so amazing thanks for all the support and luv. I'm here for the long run — Dolly!!*

▶ ***Davey, my heart, Let's laugh 4 9 more! UR Parker***

▶ *Luis EC3, Duty Happy 3 year Anniversary on 9/18! So proud to be yours. Love you the most. That's not impossible. Patricia*

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From left: Dr. Ashley Vernon, Dr. Malcolm Robinson, Dr. Scott Shikora, Dr. Jooyuen Chung, and Dr. Ali Tavakkoli

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Wednesday, October 3 and Wednesday, October 17 (in Spanish), 6-8 p.m.
Faulkner Hospital
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Letters

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Look between the (party) lines

Observing the political discourse captured each day in "Letters," it is clear both sides are talking past each other. I am also including the highly leftist partisan column writer Michael J. Frosch. Absent are any mutually objective comparison criteria both sides agree evaluates Obama's past performance fairly. I did not say it doesn't exist; on the contrary, it is abundant. The trouble with the data — be it unemployment, astronomical gas prices or the billions of dollars added to the national debt — is one side denies this data or wants to ignore that their man is responsible. Dredging up Bush is not a response except that of a petulant child. Bush is long gone. The fact is, the guy occupying the White House is a train wreck. He has no cogent plan of his own and never has. The election was an upset and as much a surprise to him as to anyone. Now it is time to put things right by sending the amateurs to the showers and letting the person with a successful private and public career have at it.

MIKE TREACY, VIA E-MAIL

RNC should take cue from Hollywood and do a reboot

RE: "PALESTINE VIDEO MORE TROUBLE FOR ROMNEY" (METRO, SEPT. 19) Is it too late for the GOP to rethink its current candidate, one who opens his mouth and exchanges his feet, for the sake of the party which, at the current rate of events, is going to drastically lose the November election because of ongoing gaffes? I also wonder how aggravated the GOP VP candidate has become at the party's "leader" foiling his chance to become vice president, too.

KEN WESTHASSEL, MEDFORD, MASS.

Bonus question: If 99% of the 47% don't like choices ...

The 99 percent have now become the 47 percent, an unquestionable proof that the economy of the only "real" democracy in the whole wide world is getting better. Now whether this dramatic improvement is due to the rantings of Romney or the president himself remains on the minds of those 53 percent who don't vote or who, like this writer, vote for "real" third parties.

SUZY SANDOR, VIA E-MAIL

With friends like these ...

"RE: OCCUPY WALL STREET AIMS AT COMEBACK" (METRO, SEPT. 17) The comeback of OWS is not hurting the 1 percent who are chauffeured to work and who most likely stayed home today knowing the protest was about to resurrect itself. Instead, OWS is only affecting the 99 percent of us who need to get to work to earn a check to support our families. Their protest also costs the 99 percent of us, who they claim to be fighting for, additional expenses in overtime for the required police presence. We live in a capitalist society as do the OWS protesters. If they wish to live in a society where those who work hard and earn a good living have to hand their income to those who choose not to work, then they should pick a socialist country and move there.

HENRY SMITH, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Don't give up too quickly if things start out all wrong for you. Fortunately, you will be able to stick in there until you're able to turn things around to your liking.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Now is the time to start looking ahead. You should be able to come up with an idea for blending your present efforts with what you have in mind for the future, resulting in success.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** How you conduct yourself in front of others is likely to have a strong bearing on something that is pending for you career-wise. Make sure you get a good grade.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Without minimizing or ignoring your logical assessments, you'll still be able to consider the feelings of others. Make sure your final decisions have a broad appeal.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Devote your time and effort to assignments that you enjoy performing. If you are choosy, this could be a productive and rewarding day for you.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Whether you are working on something creative or dealing with the mundane, the artistry you employ is likely to be quite impressive. Your endeavors will win favorable appeal.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** The way you deal with people and try to make everyone feel important will win you all kinds of points. You will inspire people to put forth more effort than they usually do.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Don't despair if your day begins on a sour note. When you start to hear all the nice things others are saying about you, you'll quickly turn your frown into a smile.

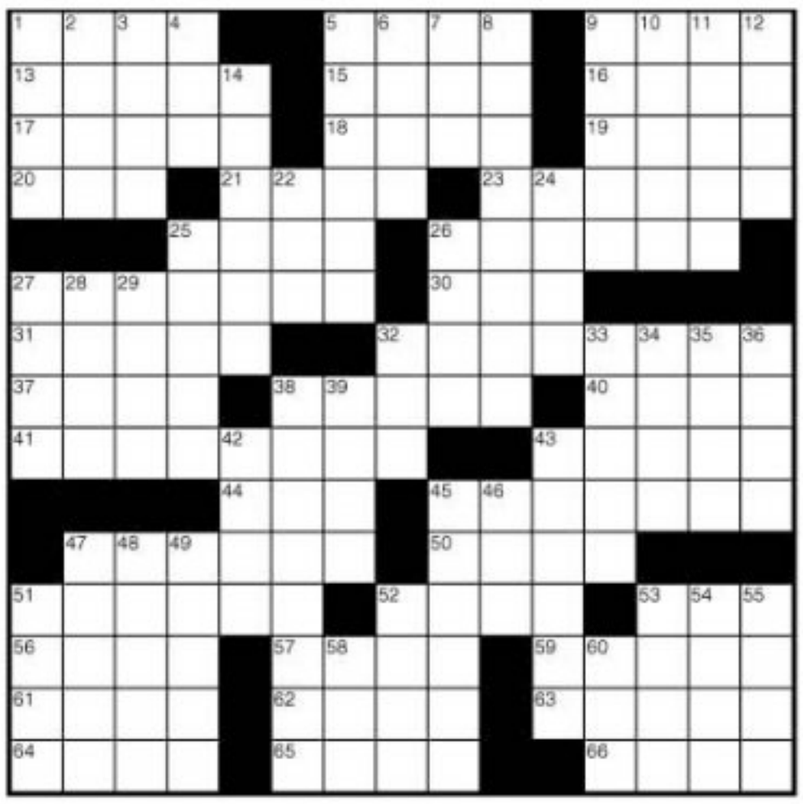
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Regardless of what kind of financial mess you may find yourself in, fight your way through it. Everything is likely to turn around for you.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** The cycle you're presently in puts a very strong emphasis on your natural leadership qualities. Even if you prefer not to use them, others will still turn to you for direction.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Any merchandise you acquire today will likely be treasured for a long time to come. It's the combination of elegance and practicality that makes this so.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** An unusual amount of success in your endeavors is indicated, all because you try to do the most good for the greatest number. It'll pay off for everybody.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL



Across
1 Intuition
5 Touched down
9 Elbow grease
13 Curing cheese
15 Non-flying bird
16 Diva's rendition
17 Very serious
18 Oater challenge
19 Almanac tidbit
20 Uh's cousins
21 Eager, plus
23 Lobby furnishing
25 Bandleader — Kenton
26 Anchor cable
27 Gallant
30 Have obligations
31 Fictional Frome
32 Warm welcomes (2 wds.)
37 Fertile soil
38 Holly feature
40 Skip past
41 Curious one
43 Not skimpy
44 Mil. rank
45 Predicted
47 Forbidden things
50 Coffee brewers
51 Map feature
52 Parade honoree
53 Sty matriarch
56 Mars, to Plato
57 Goddess's statue
59 Burro alternative
61 Say it — so!
62 Rochester's Jane
63 Faculty honchos
64 Crumpet companions
65 Tear to pieces
66 Vacation jaunt

Down
1 Place for posies
2 Mad scientist's aide
3 Overall fronts
4 Hydrocarbon suffix
5 Calculator job
6 Tarzan, really
7 NW state
8 Hauls heaps (2 wds.)
9 Blows gently
10 Talk pompously
11 Kitchen gadget
12 Smith or Winslet
14 Potatoes au —
22 Moving option
24 Jug
25 Famed orca
26 Weed killer
27 Bagel shop
28 Nefertiti's god
29 Hoopster — O'Neal
32 Chilly comment
33 Dens or burrows
34 Ballpark figures
35 — monster
36 One-pot dinner
38 More gloomy
39 Electric swimmers
42 Computer graphic
43 Action-movie name
45 Energized
46 Bobby of the NHL
47 Hardly wordy
48 NASA rocket stage
49 Defeats
51 Milk, in Paris
52 Rhino's defense
53 German coal region
54 Old Dodge model
55 Hornet kin
58 Go blond
60 Allow

9			3				5	
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	8				6			5

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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		5		1				
	6	3				7		9
	5				2	9		1
		1	9		4	5		
2		8	1				4	
3		6				8	1	
				3		2		
	1		8					4

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

C	L	A	M	P	■	S	E	E	D	■	C	H	U	G
H	A	G	A	R	■	C	A	P	E	■	A	E	R	O
A	M	O	C	O	■	A	R	E	A	■	B	R	A	G
P	A	G	E	T	U	R	N	E	R	■	A	R	L	O
■	■	■	■	O	F	F	S	■	A	Y	N	■	■	■
C	A	S	I	N	O	S	■	C	B	R	A	D	I	O
E	R	I	C	S	■	■	S	O	B	S	■	O	D	D
L	O	N	E	■	S	H	I	N	Y	■	C	L	I	O
E	M	U	■	S	T	A	B	■	■	C	O	L	O	R
B	A	S	E	H	I	T	■	C	O	H	O	S	T	S
■	■	■	U	H	F	■	S	A	R	I	■	■	■	■
S	H	A	G	■	F	I	N	G	E	R	B	O	W	L
H	O	N	E	■	E	T	O	N	■	P	A	T	I	O
E	B	O	N	■	S	E	R	E	■	E	D	I	C	T
D	O	N	E	■	T	R	E	Y	■	D	E	S	K	S

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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The Obama You Don't Know

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food&drink

Belly up to Belly Wine Bar

The Blue Room and Central Bottle find space for a third little addition to their Kendall Square presence

THURSTY

LUKE O'NEIL
TWITTER: @LUKEONEIL47

ERIN BALDASSARI/METRO

▶ Belly is open now.

When you've got a longstanding restaurant with some extra space whose potential isn't being maximized, partitioning it off and re-branding it as an entirely new concept is kind of a genius idea. I'm surprised more places haven't thought of it yet. That's what they've done with Belly Wine Bar, the new Kendall Square spot that pulls a little from the owners' other two endeavors, The Blue Room and Central Bottle shop. The somewhat precious room maintains the rustic charm of the Blue Room, but imbues it with a much lighter, more elegant aesthetic, with bright wooden high tops and a marble bar. Owner and wine director Liz Vilardi says she was inspired by a trip to the Alto Adige Region of Italy. The wine estates there, she says, gave her the idea to build "a crisp, modern space inserted into a historical context. In this case, a 19th century American mill building."

The end result feels like a delicate wine and cheese reception at an art gallery in an old repurposed industrial loft — but in a good way. Cheese, as well as cured meats, and lots of hard-to-find and lesser-served wines, are decidedly the focus here. "Belly is what you get when you combine traits from her siblings — local, seasonal and inspired food from The Blue Room and carefully curated cheese and wine from Central Bottle," says Vilardi.

That includes 30 wines by the glass and some 140 by the bottle, focusing on European producer-driven wines, which, Vilardi admits, "can often mean unrecognizable varietals, regions or producers." They're meant to be heavy on value and fun, however. "I've always encouraged guests to venture out of their comfort zone and try delicious, interesting and well-priced wines. The list at Belly is a little more 'out there' — more orange, more quirky, more geeky, more off-beat — while also paying homage to the classics."

What to try

The menu here was a little bit hard to find an entry point into, and somewhat overly cute, although the staff is exceptionally knowledgeable and happy to help. You might try a Morgon Côte du Py, served chilled (like most of the Beaujolais), that's like biting into a cold burst of dark fruit. "Very few people get to have more than three or four Cru Beaujolais in their lives, let alone at once," Vilardi says. "We have all 10 and I think trying a few of those is a must."

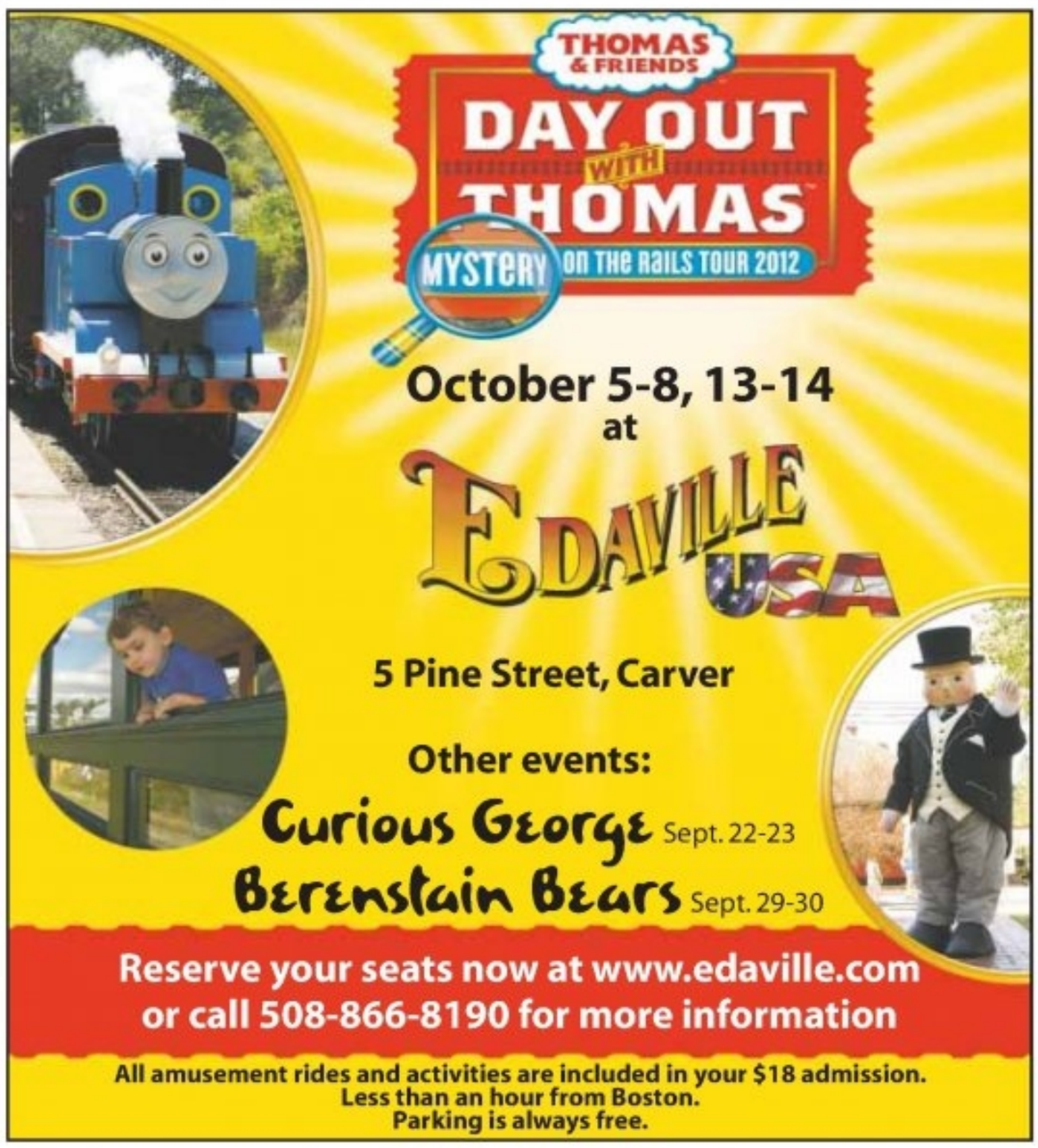
How about cocktails?

Although wine is the leader here, the cocktail menu from Fanny Katz — formerly of Menton and B+G Oyster, is impressive, broken down into venerable, lesser-known classics, each paired with a modern update, like the "before" Improved Mezcal Cocktail, made with Vida mezcal, Maraschino, Herbsaint and Angostura bitters, and the "after" Shut Up and Drink, made with Vida, Luli Chinato, Green Chartreuse and grapefruit bitters.

Where it's at

Belly Wine Bar

One Kendall Square
617-494-0968
www.bellywinebar.com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listings

The rundown

MUSIC

Revels RiverSing
Sunday, 5 p.m.
Winthrop Park
JFK Blvd. and Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge
Free, 617-972-8300
www.revels.org
Revels, Boston's premier quasi-pagan seasonal sing-along organizers, return with their popular annual Fall Equinox festival. A 100-strong chorus, the Actor's Shakespeare Project and a New Orleans "honk" band are among the performers. You'll meet up in Harvard Square and parade down to the Charles with stilt-walkers, weird puppets and giant butterflies to sing songs of autumn.

ART

'Something Along Those Lines'
Through Nov. 3
School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
230 The Fenway, Boston
Free, 617-267-6100
www.smfa.org
This exhibit includes works from Adel Abdessemed, Ann Carlson and Mary Ellen Strom, Carlos Cruz-Diez, Gego, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, LeWitt, Bruce Nauman, Fred Sandback and Lawrence Weiner. The School of the Museum of Fine Arts has commissioned each to create a response to Sol LeWitt's 1971 SMFA installation "Wall Drawing #118" for a multimedia exploration of the interaction between concept and form.

TALKS

Gene Robinson
Friday, 6 p.m.
Brattle Theatre
40 Brattle St., Cambridge
$5, 617-661-1515
www.harvard.com
As the first openly gay bishop in the Anglican Communion, Gene Robinson stands right on the fault line between liberal and conservative Christianity. He's appearing in support of his new book, "God Believes in Love," which presents a reasoned, religious argument for gay rights. If that sounds contradictory to you, you're exactly the kind of person he's trying to reach.

MOVIES

'The Last Days of Pompeii'
Sunday, 4 p.m.
Harvard Film Archive
24 Quincy St., Cambridge
Free, 617-495-4700
www.hcl.harvard.edu/hfa
This 1926 Italian silent film tells of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, a popular subject for early historical films. Perhaps in the decadent, paranoid 1920s, the tale of an advanced, epicurean, self-centered civilization destroyed by the savage indifference of nature felt prophetic. So when you watch this, keep in mind that cinematic footnote, and the tendency of history to repeat itself...

COMEDY

Norm Macdonald
Friday, 7:30 and 10 p.m.
Wilbur Theatre
246 Tremont St., Boston
$25-$32, 800-746-3000
www.thewilburtheatre.com
This veteran comedian was famously fired from "Saturday Night Live" for, as he puts it, "not being funny," but that's sort of the point of his act, which wrings humor from the unfunny, the depressing and the insipid and our hopeless desperation to avoid them. If you don't get it, that may be the joke — that you're expecting to get something. MATTEW DINARO

Theater

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www.artsemerson.org
The Civilians present this play about the Fourth French Revolution, in 1871, when a working-class revolt overthrew the government of Paris and declared an independent socialist state — generally regarded as the first proletarian assumption of power during the Industrial Revolution. The production integrates period text and songs into a probing of the spirit of this short-lived but pioneering experiment in socio-political idealism.

▶ Aysan Celik gets her knickers in a twist.

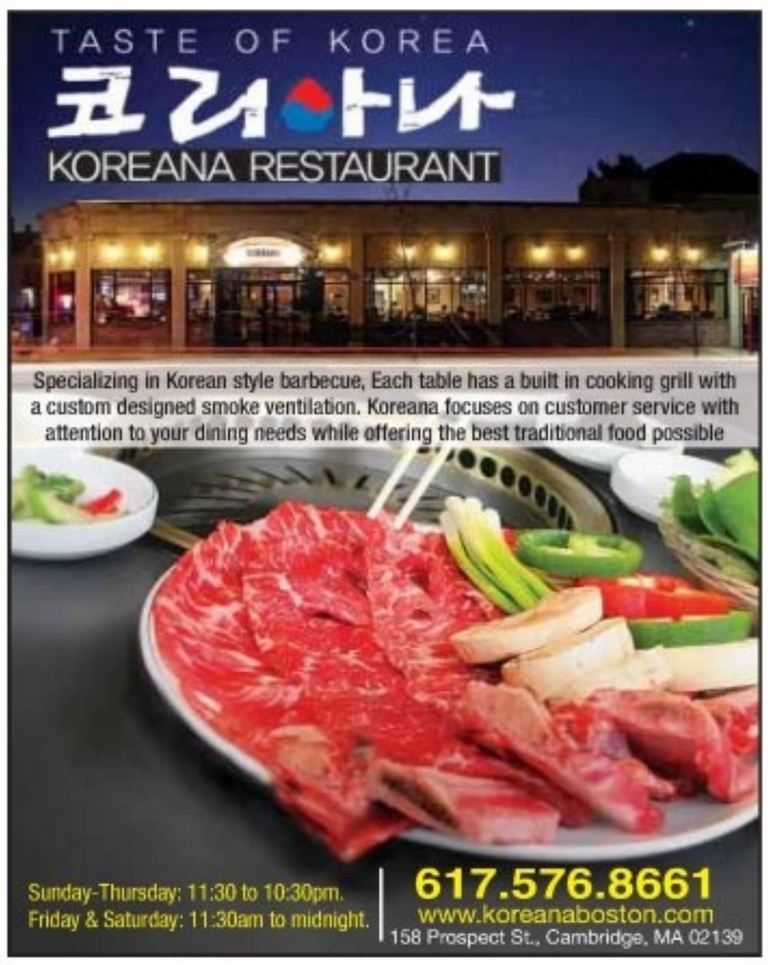
Music

Niu Niu

CAROL ROSEGG

Friday, 8 p.m.
Jordan Hall
30 Gainsborough St., Boston
$12-250, 617-585-1260
www.nec.org
The Artemesia Foundation presents this Chinese piano wunderkind, who was signed to EMI at the age of 10 (but who wasn't, right?). He's said to have an emotional intuition that reaches beyond his 15 years, and it'd better be true, because he's picked a seriously emotional set list that includes Beethoven, Liszt and Rachmaninoff. This is his North American recital debut.

▶ Niu Niu is new new to America.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▶ **Gary Clark, Jr.**
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Nov. 9
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

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With In Flames, Hellyeah, Sylosis
Nov. 25
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

▶ **Tedeschi Trucks Band**
Nov. 29
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

▶ **Band Of Horses**
Dec. 9
House of Blues
(On sale Saturday)

Warren Ellis talks about defying the limitations of an instrumental setup that consists of only violin, guitar and drums

IT'S A DIRTY JOB

ANDY SHEPPARD/REDFERNS

▶ Ellis rocks out like no other indie rock violin player can.

In their 20 years as a band, the Dirty Three have earned a reputation as one of the greatest instrumental acts in the world. From the intensity of their live shows to their eight meticulous studio records, the Three are known for their tumultuous ebbs and sprawling flows that juxtapose cinematic rock music with the sensibilities and spontaneity of jazz.

Formed in Melbourne, Australia in 1992, the band members are now spread across three different continents. As each has his own side projects, distance and scheduling have made touring and recording all the more difficult.

"The Dirty Three has always been ongoing," says Warren Ellis from his home in Paris. "But at any given time, one of us is doing something else. Any longevity is directly attributed to the fact that we have so many other things going on. The good thing about the Dirty Three is that we all go away and do other things and we all come back and bring new things from those experiences."

Guitarist Mick Turner still lives in Melbourne, painting, performing solo and running the record label, Anchor and Hope. Jim White lives in New York and is one of indie rock's go-to drummers for hire, touring with Cat Power and Bill Callahan. But it's Ellis who seems to be the busiest. As Nick Cave's right-hand man, Ellis is the violinist for the Bad Seeds and Grinderman, and also collaborates with Cave on soundtracks. On the recent and critically acclaimed film "Lawless," the two not only provide the score to the movie, but also perform as the Bootleggers, backing up guest vocalists Mark Lanegan, Emmylou Harris, Ralph Stanley and Willie Nelson. "I never really had a plan at the start. When we formed Dirty Three, I realized I met two other people that would be good to create a language with," says Ellis. "Then other things came along. I don't have priorities and nothing ranks above anything else. I see everything I do in music as something of an ongoing involvement in the story. But it's hard to juggle everything at the same time."

NOLAN GAWRON
letters@metro.us

If you go

Dirty Three
Tomorrow, 9 p.m.
Brighton Music Hall
158 Brighton Ave., Allston
$15, 18+, 800-745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com

The power of Three

While making "Towards the Low Sun," released earlier this year, the band noted the ongoing challenges of trying to remain an instrumental trio without sounding too familiar. They conquered these challenges by adding some abrasive avant-noise to Ellis' smooth yet possessed bowing, some soaring guitar solos to Turner's usual pluck and drone style, and giving more freedom to White's gentle brush strokes.

NOLAN GAWRON

▶ "I think early on we realized the reality of our limitations, being a three-piece group and instrumental," says Ellis. "Rather than augment the group over the years, we've added overdubs and keep the basic spirit of it as a three-piece and see how far we can go with it. It's been a struggle to make this record. Not like a struggle to cure cancer, but you know what I mean. I wondered if we had said as much as we had to say. But in the end, we made something that we feel real good about."

Also onstage

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www.lifeisgood.com/festival
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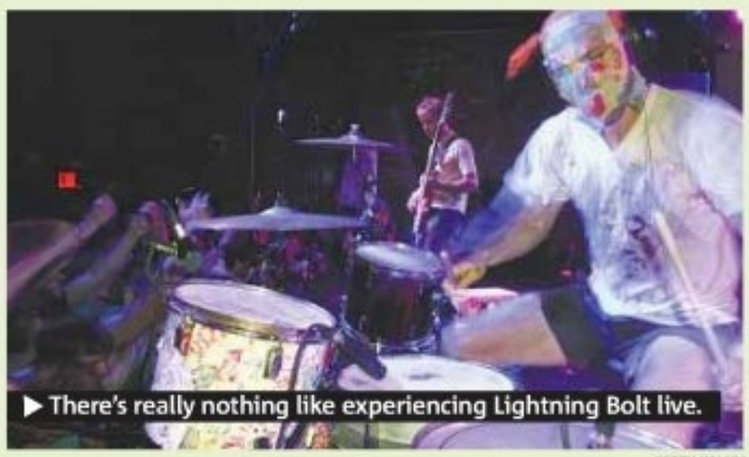
▶ Dan Zanes

GETTY IMAGES

Lightning Bolt

Sunday, 7 p.m.
The Paradise
967 Comm. Ave., Boston
$12, 800-745-3000



▶ There's really nothing like experiencing Lightning Bolt live.

GETTY IMAGES

www.livenation.com
And on the way other end of the spectrum, this Providence band is sometimes referred to as noise-rock, but that's misleading. "Noise" suggests nothing but cynical, anarchic radio static, but the Bolt's songs are complex, mind-melting compositions, ego-killing rhythmic assaults crashing like tsunamis on shores of your corporate consumer complacency. But in another way, it's not misleading, because they're really effing loud. **MATTHEW DINARO**

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3

ON TV TODAY

NFL

GIANTS AT PANTHERS
8:20 P.M., NFLN

Rugby thriving in Boston

Sport flourishing throughout city ◗ Much appeal as the 'common man's game' ◗ Local schools embrace it

In 2016, rugby will be part of the Summer Olympics for the first time in 92 years. Colleges and universities in America are slowly offering more scholarships for the sport. In New England, it is undergoing an explosion in popularity among all ages.

"Rugby has a stronghold in Boston at the moment," said Eoghan Cahill of the Boston Irish Wolfhounds, one of the nation's premier rugby clubs.

It makes sense. Many New England families trace lineage to the British Isles, where the game began to flourish in the 1800s. It is wildly popular at colleges and universities, of which this region has plenty. The breeding grounds have reached area high schools, which have tripled their number of teams in the past decade, according to Cahill.

Quoted

"Scholarships are available. Olympic glory is available. What's next?"
GREG BRUCE, NORTHEASTERN COACH

"With the addition of rugby in the Olympics, what we're seeing is more and more colleges are putting emphasis into their programs," said Greg Bruce, a coach at Northeastern.

Without scholarships, money or an avenue for glory, many top athletes have previously shied from rugby. Bruce is seeing that change at both the high school and college level.

Locally, supporters are emphasizing what already makes the game special for all ages. First, it is cheap. It is also cleaner and more controlled than most think; while the NFL is embroiled in concussion controversies, such maladies are rare in rugby. There's also camaraderie not only within clubs but from one to the other. After Belmont High games, the sides share pizza. With the Wolfhounds, it might be a pint.

"You can find a painter, a carpenter," said Owen Collins, an Abington native who played at B.C. High, overseas and for several years now with the Wolfhounds. "You can find a computer science guy, a technician, an electrician, an engineer, a lawyer. There's just so much diversity, it definitely is a great place to network."

TONY LEE
sports@metro.us

ERIN BALDASSARI/METRO

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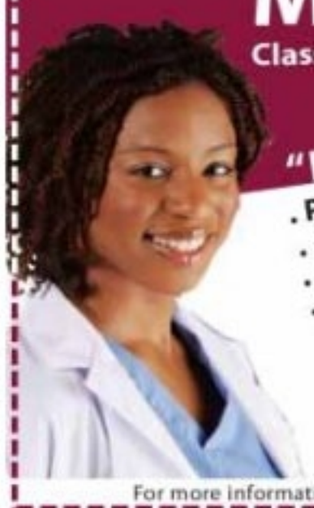

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Opinion

MATT BURKE
SPORTS EDITOR

PATS FANS A QUIET BUNCH AT GILLETTE

Last Sunday confirmed the thoughts of many: The Patriots have the worst home field advantage in the NFL. Fans began filing toward the exit signs with under three minutes remaining in the 20-18 loss to the Cardinals.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send submissions to letters@metro.us.

They filed out prior to the first down by Arizona's Ryan Williams and later his fumble on 3rd and 13. In a worst case scenario, the Patriots would have gotten the ball back with 25 seconds remaining. For Tom Brady, in today's NFL, that's an eon.

All this came after fans loudly booed the best NFL team of the past decade for a few three-and-outs in the second quarter.

Now, the booing doesn't bother me too much. I've long been of the belief that if a fan pays good money to buy a ticket, he or she can do just about anything, outside of urinating or stabbing someone (both of which actually happen at select NFL stadiums). I also believe that the cynical Bill Belichick actually enjoys negative crowd reaction at home and uses it as just another way to motivate his team.

But leaving a game early? No excuses.

There was once a time when those in this city ridiculed places like Los Angeles, Atlanta and Miami for having fans that were more into "being seen" than rooting on their team. Fans in those markets didn't "get it," we said, and we laughed that they routinely showed up just before halftime and left midway through the fourth quarter.

The laundry list of excuses does not have to be read aloud anymore. This was a 1 p.m. game on a gorgeous Sunday afternoon. It was the home opener. The Patriots were in need of a lift as they struggled against an average-to-below average football team.

Yes, the way Gillette Stadium was built is an issue, this is true. The noise routinely whips right past the light tower and under the bridge before spilling out onto Route 1. But fans in the stadium have managed to be loud in the past (look no further than last winter's two postseason games for proof). The issue here is that the decibel levels don't reach peaks until either the fans are told to be loud by Tom Brady — embarrassing that it ever came to that — or a Super Bowl berth is just a win or two away.

The Patriots have been the model NFL franchise of the last decade. It's time for Patriots fans to start living up to their end of the bargain.

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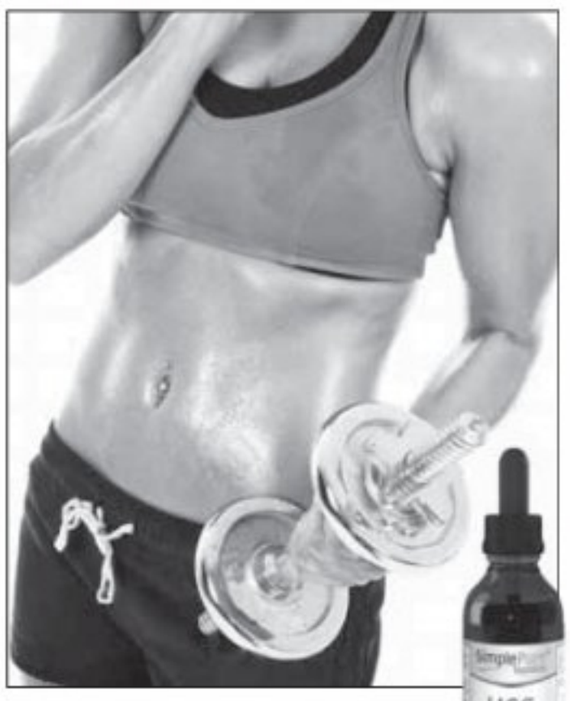

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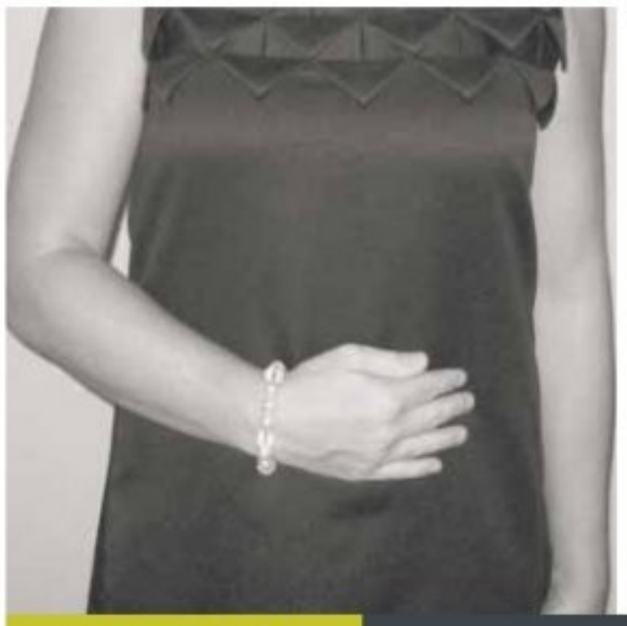

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Bibi is back

Bibi Jones, a retired porn star, tweeted another photo of herself and Pats tight end Rob Gronkowski yesterday.

- **The series of tweets began with:** "I pic of gronk of I that no one has ever seen lol — naughty!"
- **The picture** was of a fully clothed Gronkowski holding up a Gronk Patriots jersey with Jones, who is wearing nothing but a thong.
- **The picture** appears to be old, considering Gronkowski is wearing the same shirt he wore the last time Jones tweeted out photos of the pair. The original photos came out last October.
- **Jones,** who now goes by the name of Britney Maclin, also tweeted, "Gronk told me he dropped those balls bc he was thinking of me! Gotta get back in his life (: "
- **Jones** then tweeted that people from Boston took her phone to post the pictures. "Omg! I'm partying & these Boston took my phone so they could post those pics!"

AL MESSERSCHMIDT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Deion Branch wants to retire a Patriot.

Branch had other offers for return

- Receiver re-signs with Patriots
- Needs to get in 'football condition'

The news of his return was a lot less shocking than the news of his release.

Deion Branch is back with the Patriots roughly two-and-a-half weeks after he was released from the team on final cutdown day.

So why isn't it that surprising? Well, the Pats never even cleared out his locker — one that sits next to Tom Brady's. His nameplate remained in place, a family portrait sat on the shelf and his jersey and gloves both hung on the rod.

"It's always good to be here. I love it here," Branch said yesterday, standing in front of his locker.

Branch, who sees himself retiring with the Patriots, turned down calls from other teams because the situations "didn't suit" him or his family. The fact that teams were calling for his services softened the blow of being cut — people wanted him, but did he want them back?

"Am I ready to uproot my family and move here to go and play for this team? There's a lot of things that goes into play when making certain decisions," he said.

At this stage in his life, he knows that family matters most. Not being out on the field for the regular season opener didn't hurt Branch as much as you'd think.

"When you have a wife and kids, trust me, you don't have room or time to get down," he said. "I think football, this game, this sport, is going to last for so long. My family is always going to be there. I'm very blessed to have my priorities in line, and I think that's the difference that may separate me from some younger guys."

Now back with the Pats, he'll see if he can separate himself from the Ravens secondary.

"The only thing now is all about football condition," Branch said. "I'm in shape — I'm in football shape. It's just all about being in football condition, going out running 10-15 plays with a 25-second break. Those are the things that you have to be prepared for going against competition, elite level competition in the NFL."

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

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